a renewed commitment to eliminate this scourge For the first time, there was a clear reference to avoid double standards in tackling this challenge. The Summit also recognized the need to take the process of regional economic integration by expanding the scope of SAFTA (Agreement on South Asia Free Trade Area) to include trade in services, enhanced investment and harmonized standards. It decided to encourage trade-creating investment in member states. An Agreement on Promotion and Protection of Investment is under discussion.

(c) The Dhaka Declaration adopted at the Summit included, *inter-alia,* regional cooperation in the areas of trade, commerce, poverty alleviation, social challenges, natural disasters, people-to-people contact and cultural cooperation. Other issues included in the Declaration related to SAARC's external profile and linkages, and to strengthening its institutional mechanisms and the funding mechanisms to undertake various proposals.

(d) The Government is pursuing the proposals agreed at the Summit in close consultation with other SAARC member states.

Agreement signed with USA

†2762. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agreement with the United States of America signed on the use of atomic energy; and

(b) whether this agreement would not adversely affect the security system of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) No agreement has been signed with the United States of America on the use of atomic energy.

(b) Does not arise.

Trans-Asia Railway link

2763. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that representatives from seven Asian countries including India had earlier discussed setting up of a Trans-Asian Railway

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.